

Application No.: 10/074,992

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A device for disinfecting operatory unit water and lines, comprising:

a liquid source such as a pressurized water line or a reservoir;

an ozone generator using a corona discharge to produce an ozone containing gas;

a protection system that prevents liquid from the liquid source from entering the ozone generator;

an ozone mixing system that mixes and dissolves the ozone containing gas in the liquid;

a circulation system that circulates the liquid containing dissolved ozone through a pressurized liquid circulation loop connected to the operatory unit;

a separation system that separates undissolved gas from the ozonated liquid prior to circulating the ozonated liquid through the circulation passageway;

a reducing system that prevents ozone in the separated gas from escaping into the atmosphere by passing the gas through an ozone reducing material before venting; and

a liquid admitting system that inputs liquid from the liquid source into the mixing system to replace liquid output to the operatory unit.

2. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein pressure regulation means maintains proper pressure in the liquid circulation passageway.

3. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein there is at least one connection in the pressurized liquid circulation passageway for outputting liquid with dissolved ozone.

4. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a control system causes the device to operate as desired to produce liquid containing dissolved ozone and to circulate and output liquid containing dissolved ozone.

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5. (currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said ozone generator is of a size sufficient to generate ~~generates~~ more ozone than can be dissolved in the liquid flow.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein the ozone containing gas is mixed with the liquid by use of a positive pressure pump.

8. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein the ozone containing gas is further mixed with the liquid by use of a static mixer.

9. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein the ozone containing gas is mixed with the liquid by use of a gas diffuser.

10. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein undissolved ozone containing gas is separated from the liquid by use of a porous hydrophobic material

11. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein undissolved ozone containing gas is separated from the ozonated liquid at near atmospheric pressure.

12. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 wherein a barrier prevents liquid from entering the ozone reducing material.

13. (previously presented) The device of claim 12 wherein liquid is prevented from entering the ozone reducing material by use of a porous hydrophobic barrier.

14. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein the source of the liquid provides pressure to circulate and output the ozonated liquid.

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15. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a pump provides pressure to circulate and output the ozonated liquid.

16. (currently amended) The device of claim 1 further including a waste line, wherein said circulation system circulates the ozonated liquid through the pressurized liquid circulation passageway and liquid that is not output for use from said pressurized liquid circulation passageway is directed to the ~~discards as waste line liquid which is not output for use.~~

17. (currently amended) The device of claim 16 further including a cuspidor draining into the waste line, wherein the ozonated liquid that is ~~discarded as~~ directed to a waste line is directed to rinse a the cuspidor before entering the waste line.

18. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a pump for withdrawing liquid containing dissolved ozone from the ozone mixing system recirculates the liquid under pressure through a loop that conducts the liquid back to the ozone mixing system.

19. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 further including an ozone sensor in said liquid circulation passageway, the ozone sensor connected to an alarm to indicate whether the device is operating properly.

20. (previously presented) The device of claim 19 wherein the ozone generator and ozone mixing system are responsive to the ozone sensor.

21. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a valve controls the rate of output flow of the ozonated liquid.

22. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a porous hydrophobic barrier is used to prevent liquid from entering the ozone generator.

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23. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the ozone generator uses oxygen to produce an ozone containing gas and where the source of oxygen for the ozone generator is dried air supplied to the operatory unit.

24. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein air is dried by a desiccant protected from moist air by valves when the device is not being operated.

25. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 further including a control system responsive to a lack of supply water, for controlling at least the ozone generator and circulation system.

26. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein a filter is installed in the liquid passageway.

27. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 wherein liquid containing dissolved ozone is recirculated through a valved dispensing means.

28. (previously presented) The device of claim 27 wherein the valved dispensing means is located as near as possible to the point of use and is responsive to air pressure.

29. (original) The device of claim 28 wherein the source of the air pressure is air used to drive a turbine in a hand piece.

30. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 further including a control system and a sensor in communication with the control system, wherein liquid level in the treatment chamber is monitored by the sensor.

31. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 further including a control system wherein the control system, in response to a period of non-use, turns the device off.